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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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2. After Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's speech of 26 September, Dertinger made the following comments: "The very opening words, in which Adenauer said that West Germans could not sit down at the same table to negotiate with Communists, and the statements there there is no freedom in the DDR and that free elections will first have to be held, all would seem likely to meet with refusal here. However, I would honestly welcome the holding of elections." When someone present observed that Dertinger himself stood no chance of being elected under such conditions, he replied that he would then set up a newspaper of his own and withdraw from politics.

3. On 28 September the house-to-house agitation in East Germany in behalf of the Grotewohl proposal was discontinued, presumably as a result of the new situation created by Adenauer's 14-point speech. However, the agitation was to be resumed on 8 October, with a somewhat different line, to be set by Otto Grotewohl's speech of 6 October.

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6. On 4 or 5 October a West Berlin newspaper quoted an LDP politician, Karl Hamann, as saying that the DDR might not be unwilling to accept international control of all-German elections. Dertinger's comment was: "It is a special part of SED tactics to use the LDP as a front, in order to make known a new example of the broad-mindedness of the DDR government, so that people cannot always say that only the SED makes proposals for the unity of Germany. I find it extremely regrettable that such instructions were not given to the CDU before they were given to the LDP; but we shall also have something to say in this matter."*

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